

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT., MPOL, US, UR, CH

SUBJ: ZNANIE FOCUS ON CHINA

REF: LENINGRAD A-24

1. SUMMARY. WE HAVE NOTICED SOME HEIGHTENED INTEREST IN CHINESE SITUATION IN ZNANIE LECTURES, IF NOT IN LOCAL PRESS, HERE RECENTLY. THIS PROBABLY PARTIALLY IN RESPONSE TO RECENT VANCE AND TITO VISITS AND NEED TO EXPLAIN PRESENT LINE ON CHINA AT LEAST TO MOST AVID FOLLOWERS OF CURRENT EVENTS. ZNANIE SOCIETY LECTURE ON AUGUST 17 (REFAIR) WAS DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO CHINESE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY AND ZNANIE LECTURE OF AUGUST 24 ON SOVIET DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SITUATION UN-TYPICALLY CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON SOVIET-CHINESE RELATIONS, WITH US-SOVIET RELATIONS LARGELY LEFT TO QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD. WE ARE REPORTING BELOW THE GIST OF LATER LECTURE AS EXAMPLE OF THE PITCH WHICH ZNANIE AUDIENCES HERE ARE RECEIVING IN THESE TWO AREAS.

2. USSR JOURNALIST UNION MEMBER, G.M. GUBKO, WHO HANDLED FOREIGN RELATIONS PART OF THE LECTURE, CONCENTRATED HIS PRESENTATION TO AN EXCEPTIONAL DEGREE ON CHINA WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED AS CURRENTLY USSR'S "MAIN PROBLEM." CHIEF POINTS

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MADE WERE:

--CHINA LEADERSHIP WHICH IS PUBLICLY CLAIMING TO FOLLOW IN MAO'S FOOTSTEPS, ACTUALLY IS PURSUING MORE EXTREMIST LINE. THIS CLEAR FROM "RECENTLY PUBLISHED 5TH EDITION" OF MAO'S WRITINGS WHICH REVISES MAO'S MORE MODERATE VIEWS ON FRIENDSHIP WITH USSR AND FUZZES HIS DESCRIPTIONS OF HORRORS OF NUCLEAR WAR.

--DOMESTICALLY, CHINESE MILITARY IS SEEKING "STRATEGIC POLITICAL POSITION" AND "ABSOLUTE ORDER" IN COUNTRY. IN CHINESE PRESS, MILITARY ALSO IS PROPAGATING CONCEPT THAT WORLD WAR IS INEVITABLE, TIME WILL NOT WAIT, AND CHINA MUST PREPARE FOR WAR. US-USSR FIGHT FOR LEADERSHIP IS GIVEN AS REASON FOR WAR, INTO WHICH CHINA WILL INEVITABLY BE DRAWN. MILITARY BE- THAT BECAUSE OF ITS ENORMOUS POPULATION CHINA WILL TRIUMPH AND RESULT WILL BE EXTENDED PERIOD OF PEACE AND ORDER FOR CHINA.

--CHINA'S "CLAIMS OF HEGEMONY" ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY CHINESE ECONOMY WHICH REMAINS BACKWARD, DESPITE MAO'S CLAIM TO CATCH AND EXCEED SOVIET UNION ECONOMICALLY WITHIN 50 YEARS. MOREOVER, CHINA IS INCREASINGLY ISOLATED ON WORLD SCENE AND IS NOT EVEN SUPPORTED BY SUCH COUNTRIES AS ALBANIA WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, OPPOSES PRESENT TIES WITH US AND CHINESE VIEWS ON COMMON MARKET.

--U.S. ASCRIBED LOW EXPECTATIONS TO VANCE TRIP TO CHINA WHICH WAS TROUBLED BY THORNY MAIN PROBLEM OF TAIWAN. MOREOVER, VANCE UNDERTOOK TRIP IN "POOR SPIRITS" AS RESULT OF "FAILURE" OF HIS MID EAST MISSION.

--TITO'S CHINA VISIT WAS NOT MENTIONED AT ALL IN MAIN ADDRESS, BUT IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, SPEAKER REMARKED THAT THERE WAS "ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION" BETWEEN TITO VISIT TO USSR AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHINA VISIT WHICH MUST BE SEEN AS TOTALLY SEPARATE.

3. WHILE THE ZNANIE PRESENTATION TENDED TO CONCENTRATE ON GROWING CHINA THREAT, AUDIENCE'S ATTENTION IN QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION CONTINUED TO BE ON PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVING US-USSR RELATIONS AND BULK OF QUESTIONS CONCENTRATED ON THIS ISSUE. PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY SPEAKERS WERE:

--THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES ON SALT FOLLOWING MEETING OF VANCE AND GROMYKO IN GENEVA, AND THERE IS "NO HOPE" THAT NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED BEFORE EXPIRATION CURRENT AGREEMENT IN OCTOBER. BLAME FOR THIS IS ENTIRELY ON U.S. SIDE WHICH PUSHING AHEAD WITH CRUISE MISSILE; POSING UNREALISTIC DEMANDS FOR CUT IN SOVIET HEAVY ROCKETS, AND STRIVING FOR A "UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE."

--PRESIDENT CARTER WISHES TO "SEIZE INITIATIVE IN WORLD AND IS LABORING UNDER ILLUSION THAT FORCE IS IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE TO BE PURSUED BY STATE. HISTORY, HOWEVER, WILL INEVITABLY TEMPER THIS IDEA AND CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL EITHER CHANGE ITS VIEW OR BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER ADMINISTRATION.

--SPEAKER DEVOTED MUCH ATTENTION TO DESCRIBING HORRORS OF

NEUTRON BOMB, AND AUDIENCE TOLD PRESIDENT CARTER HAS "SIGNED
PROPOSAL" FOR "CREATION" OF NEUTRON BOMB. BY THIS AND
CRUISE GO-AHEAD U.S. STARTING NEW ARMS RACE.

--THE U.S. IS SEEKING A NEW DEFINITION OF DETENTE, TO WIT,
"REGULATED RIVALRY" IN CONTRAST TO SOVIET DEFINITION FOCUSING
ON MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINDING PROPER SOLUTIONS, FUL-
FILLMENT OF CSCE RESOLUTION, AND SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT IN AREAS
OF COOPERATION AND SECURITY.NEUBERT

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